



theme: Scripture #3 (Mission) – Faithfully Obey

materials: Cake recipe and ingredients/instructions and paper for airplanes/
Science experiment materials, bible

The theme for the month is Scripture. How might we be challenged in our perceptions of what the Bible is and is meant to be? Should we always put ourselves in the position of the scripture writer or is it possible to uncover meaning blind to context or history? What new ways could we use the Bible?

Certainly, proof and argument vs. dialogue, conversation and search – which is the best way to approach the Bible? What is the Bible? Have we under or over-estimated the Bible's importance in the Christian life?

welcome

Have the cell do something that requires following instructions carefully, but don't let them know what it is they're trying to do. For instance, you could have them have to follow written instructions for baking a cake, but don't let them know what the final product is supposed to be. Or you could give everyone written instructions for folding a paper airplane (without illustrations), but don't let them know what they are folding. Here is a good site for instructions: <http://www.paperairplanes.co.uk/>

Or try some science experiments with household items, again following instructions carefully but without telling them how it's supposed to end.

http://chemistry.about.com/od/homeexperiments/Chemstry_Experiments_You_Can_Do_at_Home.htm

How does it feel to follow directions and instructions when you don't know what it is you are doing?

interact

Read Deuteronomy 11:1-7. What great and miraculous things have you seen the Lord do in your life? Share some testimonies with your cell mates, so as to increase faith and to praise God for his majestic works. Is God trustworthy? Do you trust Him with your whole life? If you do, declare this to Him: that you know He is trustworthy with every ounce of your being.

read

Now read the rest of Deuteronomy 11, verses 8-32. What mission was God giving to the people of Israel? What did they have to do in order to succeed in this mission?

What instruction does God keep on repeating in this passage? Try to sum it up in your own words. (How many times is this instruction repeated in this chapter?)

Why is obedience to the word of the Lord so vital for the success of mission?

What were the dangers associated with Israel not faithfully obeying the Lord's commands?

What are the dangers for us if we are disobedient? What do you think are the possibilities for us if we obey?

How do we even know what God's commands for us are?

How can we do a better job of constantly remembering the Lord's commands? How did the Lord instruct Israel to remember?



think

Read James 1:22-25.

How can you be doers of the word found in Deut. 11? Does God want your cell to go and take the Promised Land by military force? If not, how then can you apply the truth from this passage into your own immediate circumstances? Try and come up with three ways that your cell can be doers of this word this week.

live & pray

Write out some Scripture for yourself on masking tape and tape it places where you will see it many times a day. Put it on the door posts of your bedroom, on the inside of your locker at school or work, on your fridge, computer (make it your screen saver), television, pillow (learn by osmosis). See if this helps you to remember the commands of the Lord, and if obeying it helps you in your life of faith and mission.

useful resources

Book: *The Silver Chair*, by C.S. Lewis. – Jill is told to obey the signs/ instructions given to her by Aslan, to believe in the signs and follow them exactly. If she does not, the mission entrusted to her is in peril. Sound familiar?

Movie: *The Karate Kid*. – An absolute classic! Daniel/Dre has to obey his teacher, even though he doesn't understand the commands. But obedience leads to victory.

leader's guide

God was giving Israel the mission of taking the Promised Land, and of remaining obedient to Him once they had. They had to be faithful and obedient to His commands if they were to have any hope of victory. From a purely worldly point of view, they should never have had a hope of winning the battles. They were military and technologically primitives compared to the civilizations they were encountering, and they had no real way to overcome defensive walls. Only complete and utter trust in and obedience to God could give them victory. This kind of obedience reminds us always that the battle belongs to the Lord, then and now. It does not belong to us, and victory in mission does not depend on our own skills and abilities.

God's basic message here is to faithfully obey His commands, and these commands are: to love the Lord your God and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul. This message to obey shows up at least 10 times in this chapter alone. Disobedience would not only mean failure in mission, but also punishment (curses). Israel had to proclaim the blessings of obedience on one mountain, and the curses associated with disobedience on another mountain, thereby acting out the idea that God set both blessing and curses in front of them. They chose their path by obedience or disobedience.

Knowing Scripture, and learning how to apply it to our circumstances today, will help us to know what God's commands are for us. God also reveals His will through the Holy Spirit, and through the Church.

God instructed Israel to write his words down everywhere they went, even on their foreheads and wrists (which they did literally in little boxes called phylacteries).