

City Nights

Youth.

DATE

September 9th, 2026

SERIES

Obedience: Week One

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the true leader, so we can obey in the dark.

SCRIPTURE:

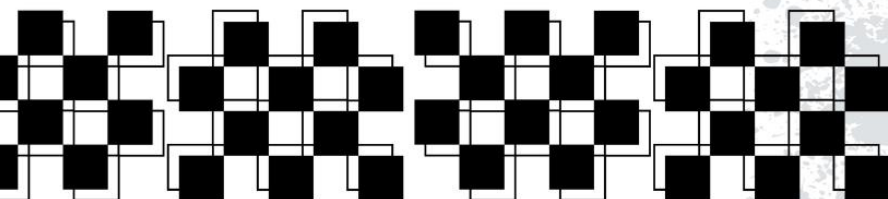
- Genesis 37:12-14
- Genesis 37:23-28
- Genesis 39:2
- Proverbs 3:5-6
- Hebrews 11:8

GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

For students to understand that God is leading behind the scenes, so we can trust Him when life is confusing.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

The series opens with Joseph as a teenager receiving big dreams from God, only to be betrayed by his brothers and sold into slavery. In moments when our circumstances flip upside down and God's plan doesn't make sense, the temptation is to abandon our faith or take matters into our own hands. When life gets confusing or unfair, students naturally wonder if God has forgotten them or if following Him is actually worth the trouble. This week teaches students that obedience isn't based on understanding every step of the journey—it's about trusting and obeying God even when we can't see the full picture.



This guide is a starting point, not an absolute. Adjust the questions and activities as needed, and don't feel like you need to do, or ask, everything you see here. The goal is to get students verbally engaging, NOT to get through everything in the curriculum.

DURING COMMUNITY GROUP

HIGH/LOWS & OPENING

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

DISCUSS THIS

LEVEL 1:

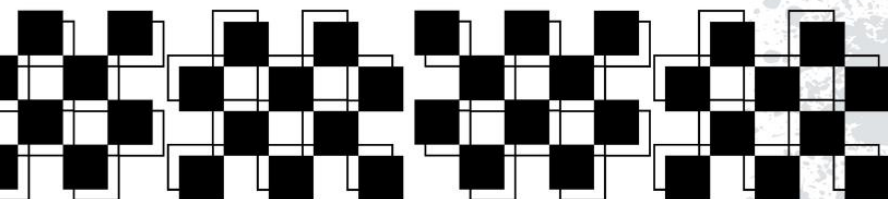
1. If you could get a spoiler alert or sneak peek for one event in your future, what would you want to know?
2. What is something small your parents or teachers ask you to do that you tend to drag your feet on doing?

LEVEL 2:

3. Joseph obeyed his father by checking on his brothers, even though they disliked him. Why is it hard to do what's right when you know people around you might react negatively?
4. Read Genesis 39:2. What does it look like practically to "remember God is with you" when you're going through a confusing or painful week at school?

LEVEL 3:

5. Is there an area of your life right now where you feel like God's promises aren't matching your current circumstances? How can you choose active obedience in that situation this week?



DATE

September 16th, 2026

SERIES

Obedience: Week Two

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is the true warrior, so we can flee from sin.

SCRIPTURE:

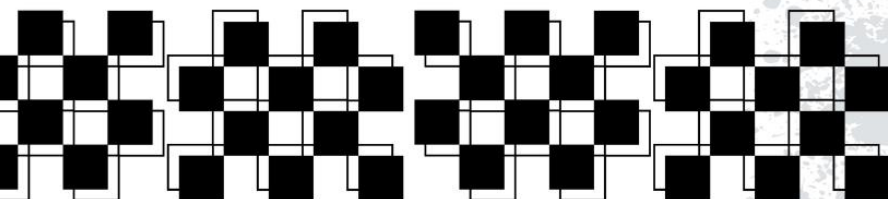
- Genesis 39:7-12
- 1 Corinthians 10:13
- 2 Timothy 2:22
- Psalm 119:9

GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

For students to understand that Godly character means running from sin, not seeing how close we can get to it before it hurts us.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

Students often face aggressive, daily temptations—from what they watch on their phones to how they react to peer pressure. Students often carry heavy guilt over simply feeling tempted, or they convince themselves that compromising "just a little bit" won't hurt anyone. Remember that your goal isn't to make them feel ashamed, but to equip them with courage. They need to hear that fleeing temptation isn't weakness; it's strength. Lead this conversation with deep grace and zero judgment, helping them see that setting boundaries to run from sin isn't about missing out on fun, but protecting the life and purity God has for them.



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DURING COMMUNITY GROUP

HIGH/LOWS & OPENING

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

DISCUSS THIS

LEVEL 1:

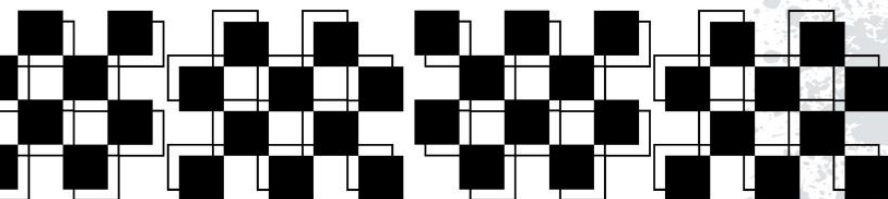
1. What is an instinctual reaction you have when you see something scary or dangerous (e.g., fight, flight, freeze)?
2. What are some common things teenagers are tempted to compromise on just to fit in with different groups in your life?

LEVEL 2:

3. Joseph pointed out that giving in to temptation was a "sin against God." How does changing our view of sin from "breaking a rule" to "hurting our relationship with God" change our motivation to obey?
4. Read 2 Timothy 2:22. What is the difference between trying to "fight" temptation in your own strength versus "fleeing" from it like Joseph did?

LEVEL 3:

5. What is one boundary or "escape route" you need to put in place on your phone, in a relationship, or with your friend group to run from a temptation you face regularly?



DATE

September 23rd, 2026

SERIES

Obedience: Week Three

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is faithful, so we can serve while waiting.

SCRIPTURE:

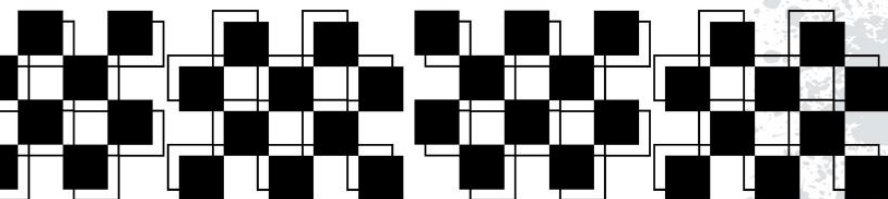
- Genesis 40:6-8
- Genesis 41:15-16
- Galatians 6:9
- Colossians 2:23-24
- Isaiah 40:31

GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

For students to understand that waiting on God isn't wasted time. It's preparation for the purpose God has for them.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

Waiting is one of the hardest things for students to do. Whether they are waiting for an answered prayer, feeling stuck in an uncomfortable season at home, or wondering when God is going to use them, students easily drift into apathy or resentment when progress feels slow. This is an opportunity for students to understand that Joseph's time in prison wasn't a punishment or a mistake—it was God's training ground. As you lead, help them see that waiting on God is never passive. Challenge them to stop pressing "pause" on their faith until their circumstances change, and encourage them to realize that using their gifts to serve the person right next to them today is how God prepares them for tomorrow.



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DURING COMMUNITY GROUP

HIGH/LOWS & OPENING

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

DISCUSS THIS

LEVEL 1:

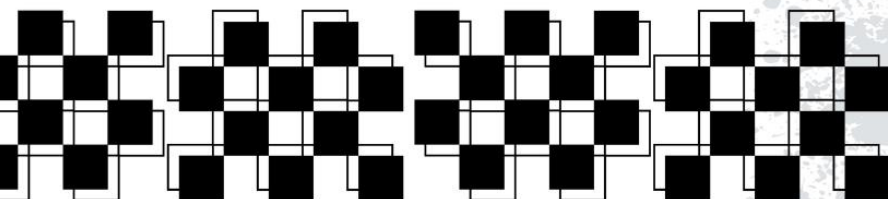
1. What is the hardest thing you've ever had to wait for, and how did you pass the time?
2. What is one practical way you can help out or encourage someone at your school or home this week?

LEVEL 2:

3. Even though Joseph was stuck in prison unfairly, he noticed when the cupbearer and baker were sad and offered to help. What stops us from noticing and serving others when we are dealing with our own problems?
4. Read Galatians 6:9. What encouragement would you give to a friend who feels like doing the right thing isn't paying off and wants to give up?

LEVEL 3:

5. Where in your life do you feel "stuck" or like God is making you wait? How can you shift your mindset from "waiting for my life to start" to "actively obeying God right now"?



City Nights

Youth.

DATE

September 30th, 2026

SERIES

Obedience: Week Four

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE:

Jesus is our gracious King, so we can forgive from the heart.

SCRIPTURE:

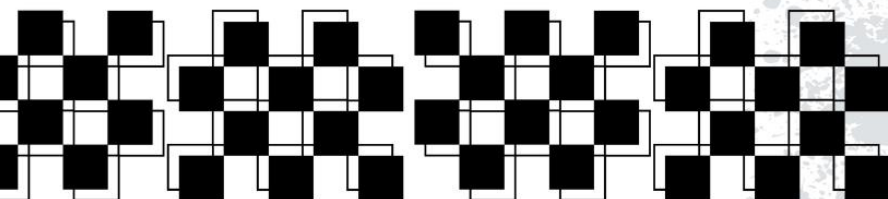
- Genesis 45:4-8
- Genesis 50:19-20
- Ephesians 4:31-32
- Colossians 3:13
- Romans 12:19-21

GOAL OF COMMUNITY GROUPS:

For students to understand that knowing who Jesus is demands a response. Following Him means surrendering our lives and reflecting His love to the world.

THINK ABOUT THIS:

Holding grudges, gossiping, and canceling people are practically default settings in culture, making forgiveness feel like impossible. Almost every student in your group is likely carrying lingering pain from a rumor, a broken friendship, or a deep family wound, and their natural defense mechanism is to build walls and hold onto bitterness. Remember that demanding forced apologies won't transform their hearts, but pointing them to Jesus will. Help them wrestle with the reality that forgiveness is a choice of obedience, not a feeling. Remind them that they don't have to excuse what was done to them, but releasing their bitterness to God is the only way they will ever truly walk in freedom.



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DURING COMMUNITY GROUP

HIGH/LOWS & OPENING

Begin with highs & lows from their week after they introduce each other. Really take this time to listen and ask questions to show you are interested in their lives.

DISCUSS THIS

LEVEL 1:

1. If you had the power to make one law mandatory for everyone in the world, what would it be? Why that law?
2. Is it easier for you to apologize when you make a mistake or is it easier to accept an apology from someone else?

LEVEL 2:

3. In Genesis 50:20, Joseph says his brothers meant evil, but God used it for good. How does trusting that God can bring good out of bad situations make it easier to forgive people who hurt us?
4. Read Ephesians 4:32. What is the difference between forgiving someone in your heart versus pretending that what they did didn't hurt or matter?

LEVEL 3:

5. Is there someone in your life right now that you are holding a grudge against? What is one practical step of obedience you can take this week to release that bitterness and choose forgiveness?

