

# AMPLIFY

GROWING A  
FAITH THAT LASTS

AMPLIFY: OBEDIENCE  
LESSON 12: 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.

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## TEACHER PREP VIDEO

Each **Amplify** lesson comes with a Teacher Prep Video. These are short videos designed to help you grasp the main point of the lesson as you prepare to teach.

To access your **Obedience** lesson 12 Teacher Prep Video, login to your Lesson Manager, navigate to lesson 12, and click on the "Background" tab. You'll notice the Teacher Prep Video near the top of the Lesson Manager window.

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## BIBLE BACKGROUND

The **Bible Background** is designed to help you provide some context for the Scripture you'll be studying. The Details gives you background info for each book, The Setting informs you what's happening in and around the passage, and The Main Point gives you an overview of how the passage will be used in the lesson.

- **What do we mean by "context"?** In every **YM360** Bible study lesson, you'll notice we make a point to encourage you to provide the context for the passages you study. By "context" we mean at the very least helping students know **who** wrote the book, **when** it was written, and **why** it was written.
- **What's the big deal?** When we teach the Bible without giving context, students don't get a "big picture" understanding of the story of the Bible. But this view is vital to grasping the story of God's plan of redemption for humankind. As you teach, use the **Bible Background** to help summarize the context.

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## THE DETAILS

### John

- **Author:** The Gospel of John was written by John, son of Zebedee, a fisherman who left his trade to follow Jesus. John also penned the book of Revelation as well as the three letters in the New Testament that bear his name.
- **Timeframe:** The Gospel of John was probably written between 85 and 95 AD. John most likely wrote his gospel in Ephesus before he was exiled to Patmos.
- **Purpose:** John's stated purpose for writing this book can be found in John 20:30-31, the last two verses in his Gospel: "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing you may have life in his name." John's goal seems to have been to clearly communicate a full theology of Jesus as the Messiah, the promised Son of God.

### Romans

- **Author:** Paul is the author of Romans.
- **Timeframe:** Romans was probably written from Corinth in the winter of 56-57 AD.
- **Purpose:** Since the church in Rome had not received comprehensive theological teaching on salvation and other implications of following Christ, Paul wrote Romans to ensure a good understanding of such things. In addition, since many Jewish Christians were rejecting some of the new Gentile converts, it was essential that a 'level playing field' be given to all Believers. This is what Paul was advocating for in Romans.

### Hebrews

- **Author:** Originally this letter to the Hebrews was entitled "The Epistle of Paul to the Hebrews." However, since the Reformation, it's been widely recognized that Paul was probably not the writer. There's simply not enough textual or historical evidence to prove his authorship. Early historians suggested the author is perhaps Barnabas or Apollos, though there is no way to know for sure.
- **Timeframe:** Hebrews was almost certainly written before the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in 70 AD since the author does not mention or give any hint to this catastrophic happening.
- **Purpose:** Hebrews was written to address Jewish converts to Christianity and challenge them to hold fast to their newfound faith. Many of them were resorting back to old traditions, and some were even considering merging with certain Jewish sects. Because of increased persecution of Jewish converts to Christianity, many of them were tempted to resort back to old rites and rituals purely to avoid the pain. The challenge from this Hebrew Christian writer to Hebrew converts was to hold fast to their Christian faith and not to slip back to their Hebrew roots.

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## THE MAIN POINT

Jesus was the son who perfectly obeyed His Father. This obedience led to death, resurrection, and ultimately our salvation. When we come to fully grasp what Christ has done for us, how can we do anything less than fall deeper in love with Him? It is this love that should motivate us to be obedient to God. We can approach our obedience to the Lord instead with a "checklist" mentality. Jesus died on the cross; therefore, I must fulfill these requirements. A legalistic approach to obedience will leave us bitter and resentful of the tasks we "must" perform.

WEEK 12: LESSON PLAN  
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The Romans passage shows us that while Adam disobeyed God and this led us into sin, Jesus perfectly obeyed and this led us to salvation. Through Adam, we were held accountable for the disobedience while through Christ God no longer holds this against us. In Hebrews, we see that Jesus had to overcome temptation with obedience. We can't ever say that Jesus is God so He just "doesn't get" how hard this obedience is. Instead, we see He understands all of our struggles. We wrap up with John to demonstrate to students that wanting to be "good enough" for God simply can't motivate our obedience. It must be motivated by our love for Christ and what He did on our behalf.

The goal is that our students would move away from seeing obedience as "shoulds" and "shouldn'ts" or "do's" and "don'ts." As we saw in lesson 11, when we come to trust in God's character our desire to obey Him grows. When we take the next step and allow that trust to grow to a great love for Him a desire for obedience grows.

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## LESSON PLAN

The **Lesson Plan** contains three elements: An introductory activity called **The Lead In**; the Bible study section called **The Main Event**; an application-focused segment called **The Last Word**.

## THE LEAD IN

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- **Goal:** The goal of this activity is to get students thinking about what loving Jesus really means.
- **Set-Up:** If possible, arrange to show a clip from YouTube.
  - Search YouTube for a dog training or dog obedience video. Find one that shows dogs going through obedience school with their owners. If you can find a funny one, even better.
- **If you can't show the clip, consider either watching it ahead of time and summarizing it for your group, or asking a student to be prepared to summarize it. Each student will need a piece of paper and pen or pencil. You will need a dry-erase board or flipchart for some brainstorming after the video..**

FIRST, start by telling the students that you're going to watch a video clip of dogs going to obedience school. Once you've shown the clip, ask:

- **Why do dogs need to be obedient?**
  - Answers will vary.
- **Why do dog owners want their dogs to be obedient?**
  - Answers will vary but focus on the fact that owners want their dogs to be obedient to keep them safe because they love them.

FINALLY, say:

- **It may seem silly to compare a dog being obedient to humans. Dogs need to be obedient so that their owners can control them, but our obedience to God is different. Humans are obedient to God out of their love for Him. Let's dig in to learn more.**

Transition into the **Main Event** portion of your lesson.

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## THE MAIN EVENT

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- **Goal:** That the foundation of our relationship with God is built on obedience to His commands.
- **Set Up:** None

FIRST, kick things off by asking students what they remember from last week's lesson on obedience.

Ask:

- **What was God's plan for obedience?**
  - Answer: God created us with the ability to choose to obey God and follow Him. When we learn to trust in His character, then this plan of obedience begins to make sense to us.

Explain that this week we want to take a look at Jesus and how He showed us really how hard obedience to the Father can be. He DID have a choice of His role in the Father's plan for salvation. At any moment He could have decided that it was too hard of an "ask," and walked away. Instead, He showed us how deep obedience to God could go, out of a great love for the Father and us. Explain that this is ultimately why it's important for us to understand this love and learn what it has to do with our obedience to God.

NEXT, remind students of how this concept of disobedience began with Adam; however, this changed with Jesus. Tell them you are going to go deep into a passage that contrasts how Adam's one act with Christ's one act. Take a look together, either in your Bibles, on a Bible App or print the passages out for your students in at Romans 5:15-21. Ask:

- **The writer of Romans draws a pretty drastic contrast between Adam and Jesus in regards to God's commands. What are the differences?**
  - Answer: In Adam's one act of rebellion he opened the floodgates for sin to enter the world. From that point forward our innocence was lost as people, and we had to pay for the consequences of this. In contrast, Jesus was told to do something excruciatingly difficult. He left His throne in heaven, lived on earth as a lowly human, though still fully God, and died a horrific death as a common criminal. His choice to follow through on obedience to the Father meant we could now understand what grace is.
- **If we are honest, most of the time is it easier to do what we want like Adam, or what God wants like Jesus?**
  - Answer: We are mostly like Adam. In another part of Romans Paul talks about how he wants to do what's right but doesn't and doesn't understand why. In our relationship with Jesus, He leads us to be more and more like Him, and this leads us to obey.

Explain that it all comes down to this. If you look at verse 19 especially, it sums up why Jesus' obedience is vital. Say:

- **With Adam's act created a lineage of sinners. However, on the cross, Christ's obedience wiped that out. He "made" us righteous. Nothing we could do could fix the disobedience. However, our new life of obedience flows out of Jesus' work, and this ultimately leads to eternal life.**

THEN, read or have a student read Hebrews 4:14-16 and 5:8-10. Explain that you're going to focus on Hebrews 5 first and then move into Hebrews 4. Explain to students that these passages together show us that Jesus takes our place as the one who pays for our sins. The High Priest in the Old Testament was the one who stood all day making sacrifices on the people's behalf. Jesus became that sacrifice, so now His obedience can wash away the penalty for our disobedience. Ask:

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- **How does the Hebrews 5 passage describe what perfect obedience looks like in Jesus?**
  - Answer: He suffered and took our place on the cross. We needed someone to stand in our place eternally so that we might have salvation once and for all. He is that “high priest” for us now in heaven.
- **In the Hebrews 4 passage, how can you see Christ knows our desire to disobey?**
  - Answer: He was tempted in every way we have been. This means that great desire to have our own way was in front of Him as well. This means we can’t ever say, “Jesus was God. He can’t know how hard it is.” It was a choice for Him to obey, just as much as it is for us.
- **Do you think that God is standing in heaven eagerly waiting to jump all over you and judge every one of your missteps? Sometimes in our low moments, we can feel this way. What does this passage say that helps us know that’s not the case?**
  - Answer: This is the essence of Hebrews 4:16. God does not stand above us laughing at our struggle in obedience. Instead, it is because He knows how difficult it is to obey, and yet did not sin, He brings us mercy and compassion. For this reason, when we have a relationship with Jesus, we can stand before God with confidence knowing He will help us.

Make sure students understand that this type of obedience is not about following rules. Instead, it is about surrendering to the work of Jesus in us and through us. He knows all we are grappling with, and it is through His obedience to the cross we are saved.

FINALLY, have a student read John 14:23-24. This passage is probably the most straightforward of all the passages as we’re talking about the concept of Christ and obedience. If we love Jesus, we will obey Him, and then the Father makes a home with us. If we don’t love Him, we don’t obey. Simple or no? Ask:

- **Have you ever thought about love and obedience going together? What do you think of this idea in this passage?**
  - Answer: Think about it: when you love someone you’re willing to do what they direct you to do because that love means you trust they want the best for you. In this case, obedience is easy. When we don’t love, we don’t trust. Disobedience is that much easier.
- **So is it saying when we are disobedient then we don’t really love Jesus?**
  - Answer: This passage isn’t talking about mistakes or mess-ups. Instead, its focus is on times when we have an “I don’t care” attitude. If we love Jesus, then the desire of our hearts is to obey Jesus, and our lives reflect that.
- **Jesus mentions His Father twice in this passage. One time was talking about Him making a home with us and the other His teaching. Why are these important?**
  - Answer: Jesus and the Father are one God, even though Jesus lived in bodily form on earth. Jesus remained sinless and connected to His Father. So as we obey Jesus, we know God, and we know His teaching.

Take the time to dwell on the reality that obedience to Jesus is all wrapped up in our love of Him. When we can come to grasp what He chose out of love for us, then it helps us fall deeper in love with Him. Say:

- **This may take some time to talk through. Our tendency is to believe if we can just stick to the do’s and don’ts of God’s Word then we’re obedient. This shows us that it is deeper than that.**

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Transition to *The Last Word* by reminding students that the Lord wants our hearts to be so in love with the Him that we would desire to be obedient to Him.

Transition to the ***Last Word*** to wrap up your lesson.

## THE LAST WORD

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- **Goal:** The goal of this section is to help students come to grips with the concept of obedience coming out of love more than anything else.
- **Set-Up:** You will need index cards and pens for each student.

FIRST, give each student a small stack of index cards. 4-5 per student is perfect. Tell them they're going to start thinking about the reasons why Jesus loves them, and why they love Jesus.

Tell them to take one of their index cards and on one side, to write the reasons they know or believe Jesus loves them.

THEN, have them flip the card over. On the other side of the same card write the reasons why they love Jesus.

NEXT, have them take a few minutes to reflect what are on both sides of the same card. Then explain to them that we cannot have one without the other. If we understand the way that Jesus loves us, then we love Jesus. When we love Jesus then we understand the choices He made for us out of a great love. Now ask:

- **How does understanding this love change the way you look at being obedient to Jesus the way He was obedient to the Father?**
  - Answers will vary.
- **If you're honest is it easier just to look at rules you should follow than to really follow God's ways out of a love for Him?**
  - Answers will vary.

FINALLY, explain that on the rest of their cards have them write some things they struggle within their obedience to Christ. Use one card for each struggle. Stick with just two or three. On the flip side of the card have them write what keeps them from their obedience. If you "know better" why is it difficult to do this? Let them know that no one else will be looking at these cards. Now ask:

- **Why do we still have things in our lives we want to control if we know out of our love for Christ we shouldn't?**
  - Answer: It can be easier to just "follow the rules" than to figure out why we want to follow the Lord. Obedience is really the way we follow Him. When we take the love piece out of the equation then not only will we fail time and again, we will feel shame piled on us when we do. On the other hand, when we understand Christ's love and the obedience involved, we have a desire to be like Him.

Ask students to take their cards home and ask the Lord to show them how to let those things go that they still want to hold onto. Say:

- **The Holy Spirit tells us through conviction when we are disobedient. Are we saying something is too**

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**hard really because we don't want to? Is it because our love is misplaced?**

Tell them to keep the index cards and put them somewhere they won't lose them. They will need them as part of their devotions this week.

Close in prayer.

- Don't forget to distribute the devotions to your students this week. If you're posting them on Instagram, or some other means of electronic distribution, make sure you inform students of when they will be receiving them.
- Use the Social Media guide to stay in touch with students via text or Instagram, and to encourage them to follow through with reading their devotions.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU . . .

- Do you have questions about a lesson?
- Something that worked particularly well you want to share?
- Something that didn't work you want to bring up?

We value your feedback! Please do not hesitate to email us with your questions, comments, or concerns, at [feedback@youthministry360.com](mailto:feedback@youthministry360.com).