



Connect to the Mission

Leader's Guide

Week 4

Topic: Teach them to obey

PREWORK: Read the full leader's guide and watch the videos on the website. Note the time of the videos so you can plan well.

Speaker: Doug Black

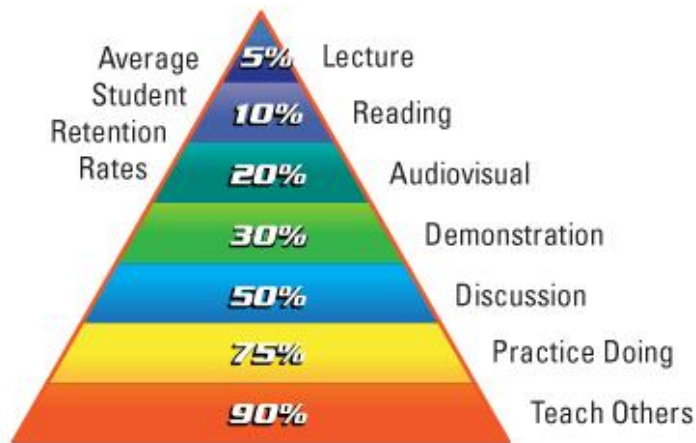
*Start Script*****

Let's reflect on Jesus' words in the Great Commission "...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matt. 28:20). Jesus is not just talking to his disciples. He is talking to all of us -- you and I are expected to teach others to obey all Jesus' commands. Jesus does not expect us to learn all about Him and then just keep it to ourselves. He does not expect us to use our extraordinary knowledge only for our own well-being. He expects us to go share it with others so that they will benefit too. Jesus says in John 15: 16, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last." WE are teachers, coaches, and mentors working for Jesus.

Now for each of us to "[teach] others to obey [all] that Jesus commanded" *[sic]* we have two main tasks: First, we must identify "who" we are going to teach. Second, we must build our capability to be great teachers of Jesus.

Now, maybe you are thinking "I cannot teach others about Jesus because I am still learning myself." That is true. We will always be learning as disciples. But remember, the best way to learn is to teach. Jesus knew that if we teach what we are learning, then it will not only bless others but it will transform us at the same time.

LEARNING PYRAMID



This learning pyramid shows what I am trying to say.

You can see here that the highest retention rates on any topic are achieved when the topic is discussed, practiced, and then taught. Ultimately teaching others is the best way to learn. So, do not be anxious when we are discussing teaching others. Jesus can use any of us, while we are still learning ourselves.

Let's discuss "who" we teach first and then the "how". When thinking about who you might teach, there are a couple of criteria that you should think about. First, before you can teach, coach or mentor someone you first need to know them well and have built a foundation of trust and respect. Trying to teach someone before getting to know them and before building a trust-based relationship will not work.

Second, learning to obey Jesus' commands should NOT be done through force, coercion, guilt, or compliance, on the contrary - the student must desire to be more like Jesus. In other words, the student must be ready and willing to learn. So, it is helpful to ask yourself these two questions when selecting the individuals that you want to disciple:

- (1) Do I have a strong trusting relationship with this person?
- (2) Do they have a desire to know Jesus?

Take a minute and think about all the people in your life who could fit those criteria.

Here are a few ideas: If you are a parent, perhaps you have a close relationship with your children and they certainly would benefit from you teaching them to obey Jesus. Second, perhaps you have a strong relationship with other family members, friends, or co-workers who would benefit from learning about Jesus and who would see you as a teacher, mentor, or advisor. I bet you have a list of several people who God has put in your life, where you can help them to learn more about Jesus and eventually help them follow in His footsteps.

As Paul writes in Romans 5: 19, “For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.” For many around you, YOU are that one person. As Jesus says in John 15: 5, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.”

Now let’s dig into HOW you become a great teacher. The first thing to understand is that everyone can be a great teacher of Jesus to others – no matter who you are and no matter what your experience, background, or capabilities.

To become a great teacher, you will need two things:

- (1) A teachable spirit: a hunger and thirst to know Jesus
- (2) A spiritual growth plan: a disciplined set of practices to keep you faithful and growing yourself

With the right desire to follow Jesus and the right plan – everyone can become a great teacher, no matter where they are in their faith journey. Keep in mind though that it will take time, commitment, and discipline and that you cannot do this alone.

You should not think of becoming a great teacher as going out and taking some classes, reading a few books and then you are ready to go. Instead, think of a master tradesperson or a skilled athlete or musician and how they developed their skills and then learned to teach their skill to others. Learning and teaching is done over a long period of time with a process of accumulating knowledge, doing the work as an apprentice, on-the-job training, coaching and development, and then eventually mastery. These skilled masters had a tremendous amount of training and coaching, thousands of hours of practice and then practical “game or performance” experience before they became masters of their trade, sport, or instrument. They had a “training mindset” and the discipline to invest in their skill steadily and consistently over time. These masters also did not do it on their own, and they had significant input from others through coaching, feedback, and accountability as they developed.

A great example of an effective spiritual growth plan can be found in Ezra 7: 10: “For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.” Guided by God, Ezra had the order just right – learn, do, then teach. To be a credible teacher, you must first abide by Jesus’ teachings in your daily life. By obeying Jesus, you will not only build credibility, but you will also gain wisdom in overcoming the challenges and obstacles in following Jesus. You must model obedience to lead others by example and establish an unshakable foundation for teaching.

As Jesus explains in Matthew 7: 24-25: “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock.”

Okay so now you are ready to develop your “rock solid” spiritual growth plan to learn, do and then teach. At this point the most important thing to know is that YOU CANNOT DO IT ALONE!!!! It will be impossible for you to develop a comprehensive spiritual development plan by yourself and it will be impossible for you to learn and master obedience to Jesus by yourself. Just like no athlete ever succeeded by themselves, you will need other Christians to help you.

Think about the Disciples in Jesus’ time. They traveled with Jesus for three years – learning, watching him work, practicing themselves and struggling with concepts, but they were also accountable to him and each other – all before they went off to teach others. The time they spent together, with Jesus and with each other, was critical for them to eventually live and teach all that Jesus commanded.

Accordingly, the first step in developing your spiritual growth plan will be for you to join a small discipleship group where you can study and discuss Jesus’ commands with other Christians and a mature Christian leader. In your discipleship group, you will learn together how to obey, model, and eventually teach, coach and mentor these commands in others. Think of a plant growing in a greenhouse. The greenhouse provides the perfect temperature, moisture, sun light and overall environment for that plant to grow and bear fruit. So will a discipleship group provide you with the learning, mentoring, coaching, practical experience, encouragement, and accountability to become a great teacher of Jesus to others. And as you begin to teach others, the discipleship group will be a critical source of feedback and learning as you come up against developments and outcomes that you don’t understand. The discipleship group is your greenhouse for spiritual growth.

Being in a small discipleship group with like-minded Christians is critical to developing your following and teaching skills if you want to be an effective teacher for Jesus. It will also make your journey with Jesus more fun and fulfilling!

In summary, “...teaching them to obey all that Jesus has commanded” *[sic]* will require two things. One, you will need to thoughtfully create a list of people in your life (children, friends, family, co-workers) who you can teach. Second, you will need to join a small discipleship group and develop and live out your spiritual growth plan.

And why would you take this on? Jesus describes the payoff in John 14: 23: “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him.” He goes on in John 15: 9: “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you obey my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have obeyed my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”

The payoff is not only having love and joy but spreading it to others! So, let’s do it! Jesus is counting on you to do it, and you will find the abundant, joyful, and purposeful life that you have been looking for. And remember Jesus’ promise, as we will discuss in the next class, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:20b).

*End Script*****

Tough questions prep:

Why does God want us to obey? Why is this so important? Like a good Father knows what is best, safest, and wisest, so does God for us (His children). He wants us to obey because His teachings are good for us and will lead to the best path. If we rebel, we are wanting our way and we leave the will of God. Consider reading Matthew 7:21–23 and asking them what the word Lord means.

Key Scriptures used:

Romans 5:19 For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous.

Ezra 7:10 For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

John 14:23 Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them.

John 14: 12-13 Jesus said, “Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”

John 15:5 Jesus said, “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15: 9 Jesus said, “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.”

John 15: 16 Jesus said, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last...”

Class Timeline:

	Estimated time
1. Introductions	15 min
2. Teaching Video	Doug Black, 10 minutes
3. Discussion Questions	20 min
4. Testimonial Video	Bill Lohnes, 7 minutes
5. Takeaways	10 min
6. Prayer	1 min
7. Invitation for next week	1 min

1. Introduce the content and video for this class (say in your own words):

In the first three courses of Connect to the Mission we discussed Jesus’ authority over us and His expectation that we would actively follow him as Disciples. We also discussed that His instruction to Go, Make Disciples and Baptize really means “as you go” – making disciples in our normal lives at home, at work and at the places where we can have the greatest influence and impact. Further we learned that baptism was more than just an event, but a continuum of immersing ourselves in God’s word and Jesus’ teachings.

Today we want to build on this foundation and discuss how we fulfill Jesus’ great commission to “teach them to obey all I commanded”. Yes, you heard me right, we - you and I - are going to be the teachers of others about Jesus. This may seem like a daunting task to you at this

point.....a challenge that you are not ready to take on. However, we will learn today why you must take on the role of teacher for Jesus. We will discuss “who” you will teach, not by force or guilt or coercion, but by leveraging your love for them and tapping into their desire to learn. And finally, we will discuss how you can build your capability to teach over time, slowly but surely -- first by learning, then by doing and then by teaching. In doing this, you can live an amazing and fulfilling life full of joy and satisfaction with positive impact on all of those around you.

Are you ready to live a fulfilling life and be a great coach? Well, let’s get started by viewing our video on the subject.

2.Play the teaching video.

3.Discussion questions:

1. Can you name 2 or 3 people in your life that may benefit from your investing in them or discipling them over the next 3 years? Describe what impact you think that could have on their lives. On your life?
2. We discussed how athletes, musicians and tradespeople have a “training mindset” to become like their teacher. Why is it important to have a training mindset with our life and those we invest in?
3. What does it look like to be motivated by love to obey?
4. What are your feelings/thoughts about joining a discipleship group as your next step?

4.Play the short personal testimony video.

5.Closing / takeaways in your own words:

1. There are people in your life that need YOU to model obedience to Jesus and teach them to follow Jesus.
2. Obedience to Jesus’ commands must be driven by Love, NOT by force, guilt, or compliance.
3. Becoming a teacher for Jesus is done over time with steady and intentional investment; everyone can do it -- but you cannot do it alone.

- Being part of a small disciple group – discussing Jesus’ commands and learning how to obey them and eventually teach them creates a “Greenhouse Effect” which is essential to help transform you into a confident and joyful disciple maker.

6. Close in prayer Use the PRAY model as we teach them to pray:

P = Praise – praise God for who He is and what He has done. Use attributes to describe Him.

R = Repent – confess any sins and change the way we think or feel

A = Ask – petition your request for this group to our Father in Heaven including their understanding of Jesus’ mission

Y = Yield – Submit to God’s will and let go of our will

PRAISE	Matthew 6:9	“Pray, then, in this way: ‘Our Father who is in heaven, Hallowed be Your name.’”
REPENT	Matthew 6:12	“And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.”
ASK	Matthew 6:11&13	“Give us this day our daily bread.” “And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.]”
YIELD	Matthew 6:10	“Your kingdom come. Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.”

7. Invite them back next week to learn about

The next week’s topic, “I will be with you always” from the Great Commission