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**OPEN THE CONVERSATION**

Take some time to build relationships with the students:

* Ask for each student’s high and low from the week.
* Today’s RBQ (Relationship Building Question): What’s a time you got pulled into something you didn’t really plan on doing?

**INTRODUCTION**

Have you ever been asked to do something you knew was right but still didn’t really want to do it? Maybe it was helping someone when you were tired, or apologizing when it felt awkward, or just doing the right thing when no one else was.

Obedience doesn’t always feel exciting. It can feel uncomfortable, inconvenient, or even a little scary. A lot of the time, it’s not that we don’t understand what God wants us to do. It’s that we just don’t want to do it. But the Bible shows us over and over again that when God calls people, He’s not looking for perfection. He’s looking for people who will say yes. All throughout Scripture, God speaks and people are called to respond. Sometimes they say yes right away. Sometimes they wrestle with it. But every time, obedience opens the door to something bigger than just them. It becomes part of what God is doing in the world.

The same is true for us. If we believe the gospel is good news, and that Jesus really has changed everything, then obedience becomes more than just doing the right thing. It becomes our way of saying, "I trust You. I'll follow." Today, we’re looking at three stories where God called someone to listen, speak, or go. Each one is different, but they all challenge us to answer the same question: Will I obey?

***READ ISAIAH 6:1–10***

1. **When Isaiah sees God’s holiness, he immediately becomes aware of his own sin. Why do you think seeing who God is changes how we see ourselves?**
2. **After Isaiah is cleansed, God asks, “Who will go for us?” and Isaiah says, “Here I am. Send me.” What do you think made him ready to respond like that?**

***READ JONAH 3:1–5***

1. **Jonah only preached for one day, but God still used it to change a whole city. What does that tell you about how God can work through even small steps of obedience?**
2. **Why do you think we sometimes resist God's call even when we know it's the right thing to do?**

***READ ACTS 13:1–3***

1. **The church leaders were praying, fasting, and worshiping when the Holy Spirit told them to send out Barnabas and Saul. What does that tell you about how God speaks and how we should listen?**
2. **It’s one thing to know God wants you to share your faith, but it’s another to actually do it. What would it look like to take a step of obedience this week?**

**WRAP UP**

What’s keeping you from sharing your faith or saying yes to God’s call?

Take a moment this week to name three things that are getting in the way. Is it fear? Pride? Comfort? Whatever it is, bring it to God and ask Him to help you let it go, trust Him with it, and take a step forward in obedience.

Ask for prayer requests, and pray together.

**EXTENDED CUT**

In Isaiah 6, Isaiah has a vision of God's holiness that completely changes how he sees himself. He cries out, "Woe is me," because standing before a holy God makes him painfully aware of his own sin. But God does not leave him in shame. He cleanses him and then calls him to go. That pattern—conviction, cleansing, and calling—is at the heart of what it means to respond to God's grace. Isaiah does not say yes because he feels strong. He says yes because he has experienced mercy and is ready to obey.

Jonah 3 gives us a very different example. Jonah obeys, but reluctantly. He preaches a short message for just one day, even though he was supposed to go throughout the city. And yet, despite his half-hearted effort, the people of Nineveh respond with serious repentance. That moment highlights something important. The power of the mission is not in how perfect or passionate you are. It is in God's mercy and willingness to work through imperfect people. Jonah's story reminds us that even reluctant obedience can be used by God. But it also invites us to consider what full-hearted obedience might look like.

In Acts 13, we see a group of church leaders worshiping, fasting, and creating space to listen to God. While they are focused on Him, the Holy Spirit speaks and tells them to set apart Barnabas and Saul for the work ahead. Their response is clear. They pray, fast again, and send them out. This moment is a turning point in the early church. It launches the first missionary journey and spreads the gospel far beyond Judea. It also reminds us that God still speaks, still sends, and still moves through people who are paying attention and ready to act.

This lesson is not about pressure or guilt. It is about trust. God does not need your perfect words or plans. He calls for obedience. When you listen, surrender, and step into what God is asking of you, you become part of something much bigger than yourself. You join the work of the gospel reaching the people who need it most.

**1. When Isaiah sees God’s holiness, he immediately becomes aware of his own sin. Why do you think seeing who God is changes how we see ourselves?**

When Isaiah saw God's holiness, he wasn’t just impressed. He was undone. It made him realize how broken he was. That kind of moment can happen for us too. When we’re reminded of who God really is. His power, His purity, His greatness, it puts things in perspective. It can humble us and make us more honest about where we need His grace.

**2. After Isaiah is cleansed, God asks, “Who will go for us?” and Isaiah says, “Here I am. Send me.” What do you think made him ready to respond like that?**

It wasn’t confidence. It was surrender. Isaiah had just experienced God’s mercy. His guilt was taken away. That kind of grace changes people. It didn’t make Isaiah perfect, but it made him available. When you know you’ve been forgiven and sent by God, you start to care less about your excuses and more about your response.

**3. Jonah only preached for one day, but God still used it to change a whole city. What does that tell you about how God can work through even small steps of obedience?**

It shows that God can use even small or imperfect efforts in big ways. You do not have to be amazing or have everything figured out for God to work through you. Jonah barely got started, and yet God used that one day of obedience to change an entire city. That should encourage you to take the step God is asking you to take, even if it feels small or uncomfortable. God cares more about your willingness to obey than about your ability to get everything right.

**4. Why do you think we sometimes resist God's call even when we know it's the right thing to do?**

Fear, pride, insecurity… there are a lot of reasons. We might not want to look weird. Or we don’t feel equipped. Or we just don’t want to deal with hard people. Jonah’s story shows that God can work through us in spite of our hesitation. But it also shows that holding back from God's call usually says more about our hearts than our circumstances.

**5. The church leaders were praying, fasting, and worshiping when the Holy Spirit told them to send out Barnabas and Saul. What does that tell you about how God speaks and how we should listen?**

They weren’t rushing or trying to make big moves. They were just focused on worship and listening. And that’s when God spoke. Sometimes we think we have to chase clarity or control everything. But Acts 13 shows that when we slow down and actually make space for God, He speaks. He leads. He sends. The key is being willing to hear and to obey.

**6. It’s one thing to know God wants you to share your faith, but it’s another to actually do it. What would it look like to take a step of obedience this week?**

Obedience might look different for you than it does for someone else. It could be as simple as inviting a friend to church, asking someone how you can pray for them, or even just being more open about your faith when the opportunity comes up. You do not have to be perfect or have all the answers. What matters is being willing to take a step, even a small one, and trust that God can use it. The more you say yes in the small things, the easier it becomes to keep saying yes when the bigger moments come.