



Week 6: A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

FACILITATOR'S NOTE:

Regarding COVID: While stress from the COVID-19 pandemic is still high, be sure to check in with group members with what has come to be known as **CPR** (Care, Prayer, Remember):

- **Care** refers to loving and supporting each other, from helping one another with tangible needs, rejoicing in celebrations together, and supporting personal struggles with encouragement and empathy
- **Prayer** refers to bringing our worries and needs before God and depending on him for the answers as we pray for each other, our community, and the world
- **Remember** refers to reflecting on God for who He is, what He has done in our lives, and what He is capable of doing

For more resources on care and prayer, check out the Slack channels.

Using the Discussion Questions:

- ✓ Start your group discussion with the “Check-in” question to help your members reflect back on their week and follow up on last week’s application challenge.
 - ✓ Review the “Big Idea” to help you gain clarity around the heart of this week’s message.
 - ✓ Read this week’s scripture passages together and guide your group through the “Discuss” questions to initiate meaningful dialogue around key concepts or insights from this week’s message.
 - ✓ Move your group discussion to a deeper level by leading them through questions in “Apply”. Use discernment to customize these application questions to meet the needs & dynamics of your group.
- NOTE:** You do not have to cover all the “Discuss” or “Apply” questions.
- ✓ Connect with God together as a group through this month’s “prayer practice”, which can be in the form of a prayer exercise or some guidance on what to pray for in relation to the message or application.

CHECK-IN	What is your self-talk when you make a mistake or fail at something?
BIG IDEA	As humans, we spend so much time trying to measure up to a certain standard by looking at our results and successes. Jesus, on the other hand, looks at our loyalty, steadfastness, and our hearts. Thankfully, we are called to a journey of faithfulness, not perfection.
DISCUSS	<p>Read Matthew 25:14–30 & Galatians 6:9</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What in the sermon spoke to you, challenged you, or was a new thought to you? 2. What do you think the unfaithful servant meant when he said to the master: “Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed”? 3. What’s your perception of God when it comes to your talents? Do you see him as a faithful, trustworthy master, or as a demanding and “hard” master?

<p>APPLY</p> <p>How do we respond to God's teaching in meaningful ways? What might God ask of us in mind, spirit, or actions?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is one area of your life where you need to practice faithfulness by being steadfast, dependable or trustworthy? 2. How would it feel if you were to stop striving for perfection and learn to practice faithfulness instead? 3. At this current time of your life, whom has God entrusted you with to build up, invest in, and love deeply?
<p>PRAYER PRACTICE (15 minutes)</p>	<p>We are created in the Image of God.</p> <p>This prayer comes in two parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Although it may not seem or feel like it at times, we are bearers of God's Image. We need to be reminded that God made us good. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect on the following verse: <i>"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well". (Psalms 139:14)</i> • Then take a few minutes in silence to listen only to God's voice, abounding in love and faithfulness, bring this truth to you. 2) Often, we see God's Image in others more clearly than we see it in ourselves. In the next few minutes of silence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask God to bring a friend, family member, co-worker or neighbour to your mind. • Ask God for the sight to see God's Image in them. • Ask God how this person might become more aware of God's Image in themselves, and finally; • Ask God how you might play a part in this (words, acts of service, gifts, etc.). May you become God's faithful messenger to them. <p>Group Practice:</p> <p>As prompted by the Holy Spirit, group members share what they might have received from God during this prayer practice. <i>What did you hear from God?</i></p>