



## Obedience — An Act of Love

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 1</i></p> <p><b>Read John 15:13-14</b></p> <p>What is Jesus teaching us about love? What does it mean to lay down your life for your friends?</p> <p>The Greek words translated “lay down your life” mean to put down or lay down your feelings, desires, affections and aversions. Jesus says letting go of our self-interest for someone else’s is how we express great love.</p> <p>Can you think of a time you laid down your life, your wants, your way for someone else?</p> <p>Did it feel like love? If not what was your motivation for putting aside your wants for another’s?</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 4</i></p> <p><b>Read Matthew 25:14-30</b> (Read Matthew 24:3 for what the <i>it</i> is Jesus is referring to.)</p> <p>The man entrusted his servants with portions of his property. He intended them to use the talents on his behalf to increase his estate while he was gone.</p> <p>How many servants obeyed? How many disobeyed? What was the reason for disobedience? Does fear drive your obedience or disobedience to God?</p> <p><b>Read 1John 4:18-21</b></p> <p>What does love cast out? What does fear have to do with?</p> <p>Jesus proved His love for us. The only command we have is to love Him and others. Why do you fear obedience?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 2</i></p> <p><b>Read John 15:13-14 again today.</b></p> <p>What kind of love did Jesus show for us? How did He lay down His life for His friends? What identifies us as Jesus’s friends?</p> <p>Jesus doesn’t ask us to do anything He hasn’t already done. He makes the way before us and provides the Holy Spirit to equip us for His call on our life.</p> <p><b>Read Galatians 5:22-23</b></p> <p>What is the fruit of the Spirit? List each aspect of the fruit and how it equips us to love like Jesus.</p> <p>Ask God to grow you to be a friend of Jesus by increasing the fruit of the Spirit in your life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 5</i></p> <p><b>Read 1Corinthians 13:4-7</b></p> <p>Reflect on these words as God’s love toward you and the love He calls you to give to others. What emotions rise when thinking of God’s love toward you? What about the call to love others in the same way?</p> <p><b>Read 1Peter 1:22-25</b></p> <p>How do we purify our souls to love like Him?</p> <p>His Word is truth. Obedience to His Word moves us toward love.</p> <p>Do you consider obedience to His Word good news?</p> <p>Does this truth encourage you or discourage you to pursue obedience to His Word?</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Day 3</i></p> <p><b>Read Matthew 22:36-40</b></p> <p>Jesus boiled down all the law and the teachings of the prophets to two things: Love God. Love others.</p> <p>Sometimes we make obedience way more complicated than it is. Examine the things you currently do in the name of obedience to God. Categorize each one as <i>Loving God</i> or <i>Loving Others</i>.</p> <p>Do you have anything left over? Something that doesn’t fit in either category? What should you do with it?</p> <p>We can fill our life with things that “look” like obedience, but they actually make us less loving. Bring these extra things to God in prayer. Ask Him why you are doing them. Consider letting them go in the name of love.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Want to learn more?</i></p> <p><b>Sister Talk: Going Deeper</b> is an extension of <b>Sister Talk: Resuscitate Your Faith</b>. You can find more on <b>Obedience—An Act of Love</b> by going to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SisterTalkFaith.com</b></p> <p>Scroll to the bottom and search <b>Week 4/Day 5 Obey</b> to review more information on obedience as an act of love.</p> <p>Sign up to receive blog posts by e-mail and each day’s lesson will come straight to your inbox.</p> <p>Follow us on <b>Instagram</b> for encouragement along the journey at <b>sistertalkfaith</b>.</p>